increasingly is participating in the delivery of healthcare particularly in National Programmes like TB, Blindness, HIV/AIDS, amongst others. The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) also engages some private hospitals for providing treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries. Health is a State subject. Public-Private Partnership is also an important strategy under NRHM.

Infant and maternal mortality in India

2657. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming scenario pertaining to infant mortality and maternal mortality in India, as portrayed in World Health Report, estimating 1,36,000 maternal and 10,00,000 new-born deaths in India, every year;

(b) if so, Government's comments and the official statistics in this regard;

(c) whether the report also mentions that one in every three malnourished children in the world lives in India;

(d) if so, Government's reaction and official statistics in this regard;

(e) the total number of new births in India, every year and how many of them die (i) just at birth (ii) within 4 weeks of birth (iii) within year of birth (iv) within 5 years of birth; and

(f) the steps being taken to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The World Health Organization have released the World Health Report 2005 in which, among another things, they have highlighted the status of the health of mothers and children in 192 countries of the world. According to this Report, India is among the 51 countries which have shown a slow decline in reducing mortality among children under 5 years of age. The Report further states that these 51 countries will need to accelerate their efforts over the next 10 years for achieving the millennium development goals on Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates by the year 2015.

According to data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) of the office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India was estimated as 407 per 100,000 live births in 1998. Subsequent estimates are not available. Based on this data, it is estimated that more than 1.1 lakh women die in India every year due to causes related to pregnancy and child birth.

According to the data from SRS of RGI for Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for 2003 is estimated as 60 per 1000 live births. There has been a consistent declining trend in infant morality rate over the years.

The World Health Report does not provide detailed statistics on nutritional status of children in India. However, according to data available from the National Family Health Survey-II (NHFS) conducted in the year 1998-99, 47% of children under 3 years of age were found to be underweight.

According to estimates by RGI, the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) of the country for 2003 was 24.8 per thousand populations which means that for every 1000 population, 24.8 children were born every year. According to data from SRS - RGI, 60 out of every 1000 children born in a year die during the first year of life (Infant Mortality Rate). Of these deaths, 27 occur during the first week of life and another 13 occur within the first 28 days of life (Neonatal Mortality Rate), while the remaining 20 occur during the rest of the 11 months of first year of life. As per the SRS data released by RGI for the year 2002, 17.8 children out of all the children below 5 years die every year. All the indicators have been showing a declining trend over the years.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), staff nurses and hiring of anesthetists. In the second phase of the RCH Programme, provision has been made to accelerate the decline of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by introducing new interventions like Janani Suraksha Yojana operationalization of First Referral Units (FRUs), providing 24-hour delivery and new born care services at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and training of ANM and LHV to become skill birth attendants.

For reducing child and infant mortality, the interventions include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due toVitamin A deficiency and essential new born care. As part of the second phase of RCH Programme, the integrated Management for Newborn and Childhood illness will be implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality healthcare including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. The mission seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

AIIMS study on child death in India

†2658. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent children born in the country die within three-four weeks after birth;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the survey report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the National Neonatal Forum the care of newly born infants is being neglected generally in the National Healthcare Programme; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to improve this condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences have not conducted any specific survey on the neo-natal mortality rates in the country. However, a report has been published by the National Neonatology Forum, which provides situational analysis of health of new born in India based on the data published from time to time by the Registrar General of India etc. According to the analysis

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.